

## **Comment Cards – San Pablo Avenue Improvement – Received as of 6/24/04**

“My” stretch of San Pablo north of the 80 overpass up to McBryde in Richmond is one of the ugliest, bleakest, most faceless sections of the whole through fare. I want to see some BEAUTY: trees & more trees. Planted median strips (which will also help control traffic flow, of which there is none at present). Colorful banners, interesting storefronts (even if there’s nothing interesting in the stores! that will come later), inviting benches, murals, curved curbs rather than straight lines. I want to see evidence of human imagination, not desolation!

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- 1) Excellent interactive, well-paced event. Should do more on other topics,e.g. crime, environment, etc.
  - 2) All aspects of San Pablo corridor (economy, housing, environment, etc.). would benefit from transportation which is:
    - 1- Clean & pollution free
    - 2- Safe from accidents & crime
    - 3- Easy to use for everybody
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As I said in “comments”, Disneyland’s innovative transportation system (monorails, etc). is a good model, it’s worked well for over 45 years.

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In the report, please also emphasize that the transit-oriented development (TOD) version includes housing.

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Visioning must extend beyond aesthetics and address the environmental and public health benefits of creative spaces that improve physical & mental well-being of residents.

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Reducing impersonal surfaces and increasing urban canopy will reduce pollution in communities.

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Prostitution is a major problem along San Pablo and has been for many years. Oakland pushes it to Emeryville, Emeryville to Berkeley, and Berkeley to Albany etc. None of the police departments seem to coordinate their efforts. This can be a major impediment to improving the quality of life along the San Pablo corridor. The prostitution brings with it much litter, used condoms, used tissues, whiskey & beer bottles (often broken in the street), and syringes. It is not unusual for the prostitutes to defecate on the sidewalks or in the bushes. The pimps can be intimidating and sometimes vie for territory violently. This activity also encourages drug dealings and drug use.

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The aesthetics and cultural quality of the corridor are important to create a sense of place, without one nobody will want to come there. A sense of place is needed.

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Housing mix is important to adequately serve various economic groups and demographic groups, such as families, people with disabilities and elderly. This is a moral issue, not just a preference